Age-friendly rural and remote communities: Development framework, challenges, and opportunities

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• Name? From where? One important rural challenge?
Objective
• Explore and discuss ways for successful rural/remote age-friendly initiatives

Outline
• Define age-friendly and opportunities
• Rural and remote context and challenges
• Rural development framework
• Discuss challenges
• Wrap up
Defining age-friendly

• **Built**: buildings, transportation, housing

• **Social**: respect seniors, engage them, civic involvement, connect, health services

• **Checklist**: 117 items/activities

• **Milestones**: action plan, public awareness, measured outcomes
Rural and remote

What is rural?

- North/remote
- Farm
- Urban centred
- Others – First Nation
## Rural and remote

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Manitoba</th>
<th>Urban Centre</th>
<th>Farm</th>
<th>North/Remote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Centres</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Nation</td>
<td>69 (25%)</td>
<td>1 (2%)</td>
<td>15 (21%)</td>
<td>53 (77%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population (FN %)</td>
<td>1.1 m (15%)</td>
<td>0.8 m (10%)</td>
<td>0.1 m (8%)</td>
<td>0.08 (69%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income/yr (Gov’t subs)</td>
<td>$31k (11%)</td>
<td>$31k (12%)</td>
<td>$25k (15%)</td>
<td>$16k (25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Gr. 12</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50+ yrs</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rural and remote

- First Nations
- Métis
- Inuit

**R**espect cultural integrity
**R**elevance to perspectives and experience
**R**eciprocal relationships
**R**esponsibility through participation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rural/remote summary</th>
<th>Implications?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diverse geography</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many cultures and values</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small dispersed population</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower income</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less formal education</td>
<td>?</td>
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<tr>
<td>More youth/some aging</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Demographic population changes, urbanization, aging, First Nations growth

• Economy primary sector, knowledge economy, income inequity
Rural and remote

- **Globalization**
  global markets, extended networks, immigration

- **Governance**
  local to new regionalism, decision making, limited engagement

- **Environment**
  natural resources limits, climate change, technology innovation
• What was your rural challenge?
Rural development framework

Theory

Practice

Time
Rural development framework

Theory/traditions

• Technical assistance

• Self-help
  local people make improvements

• Conflict/resolution
  local people drive change (marginalized)
Rural development framework

Practices

• Public policy
government roles, limited market

• Decision making
speak truth to power

• Social justice
most vulnerable

• Community learning
improve capacity & competencies
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Community Capacity vs. Time

Advisory Group
Rural development framework

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Community Capacity

Time

- Forming
- Visioning
- Agenda Setting
- Vision Refining
- Project Activity

Advisory Group
Rural Development Institute

Time

Project Activity

Agenda Setting

Financial & Human Resources

Vision
Refining

Visioning

Forming

Advisory Group

Community Capacity

Time
Discussion

• What does such a rural development framework mean for age-friendly communities?
• How do these pieces of the framework address our real challenges today?
Discuss challenges

**Theory** of rural development
- Technical
- Self-help
- Conflict resolution

**Practice** of rural development
- Public policy
- Decision making
- Social justice
- Community learning

**Challenges**
- Demographic
- Economic
- Globalization
- Governance
- Environment
Discuss challenges

Challenges
- Demographic
- Economic
- Globalization
- Governance
- Environment

Theory
- Technical
- Self-help
- Conflict/resolution

Practice
- Public policy
- Decision making
- Social justice
- Community learning

What is rural?
Thank you!

Questions & Discussion